

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 3,175,323 to Axelsson.

According to Axelsson, the reel is directly mounted to the handle in a seat defined therein. Axelsson reel seat is nothing more than a cutout portion defined in the handle and is thus an indissociable part thereof. As such, Axelsson reel mounting arrangement cannot be retrofitted to existing fishing rods. Securing means (i.e. the cam operated plungers 19 and 28) are integrated to the handle. These are all contrary to the present invention.

In Axelsson, when removing the reel 26 from the handgrip, the securing mechanism simultaneously releases the rod shaft from the handgrip. It is thus impossible to use the fishing rod while removing the reel since the rod shaft is not secured to the handgrip. That teaches away from the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is novel over Axelsson and 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3 and 6-9 depends on claim 1 and are also believed to be novel.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent No. 4,133,133 to Casset.

Casset teaches a reel holder for a fishing rod 10 including an adapter 1 having raised annular flanges 6, 7 at each end 2, 3 and a reel seat 13 slidably mounted around the adapter 1 between the raised flanges 6, 7. Therefore, the reel seat 13 cannot be removed from the adapter 1 since it is maintained thereon by the raised flanges 6, 7. It can only be slid on the adapter 1 between the raised flanges 6, 7. It is impossible to remove the reel 14 and reel seat 13 from the fly fishing rod 10 without removing the adapter 1, which is contrary to the present invention.

There is no handgrip or handle shown or disclosed by Casset. However, the handgrip is expected to be mounted rearwardly of the reel 14 (or the reel 14 is mounted frontwardly of the handgrip) because the reel 14 illustrated on FIG. 1 is a conventional reel and not a

fly fishing reel. These types of reels are typically mounted frontwardly to the handgrip. The handgrip is therefore expected to prevent the removal of the adapter 1 from the rod shaft 10.

The adapter 1 and the reel seat 13 are secured to the rod shaft 10 with a nut 17 to produce the tightening of each end, 3 and 2 respectively, of the adapter 1 on the rod 10. Pressure for securing the reel seat 13 at a predetermined position on the adapter 1 is directly applied to the rod shaft 10, introducing the risks for breaking the rod shaft 10 when securing the reel seat 13 thereto. This is contrary to the present invention.

The element 36, which is associated to the engageable member by the Examiner, is not designed to connect the reel seat 13 to the handgrip or the adapter 1. The reel seat 13 is connected to the adapter 1 with nut 17 and between flanges 6, 7. As mentioned by Casset in col. 1, lines 54-61, the element 36 prevents rotation of the reel seat 13 on the rod 10.

Amended claim 1 is patentable over the prior art and claims 2-6 and 9 depends from an allowable independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification and claims as amended render the application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that persecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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